

May 6, 2004

City of Sunnyvale Department of Community Development Planning Commission 456 W. Olive Avenue Sunnyvale, CA 94088-3707

## Dear Sirs/Madam:

This is in response to the application along with a letter dated April 29, 2004, filed by Mr. Bagwe and his wife, residents of 1060 Rembrandt Drive.

We have been residents of 702 Chopin Drive since 1986. We have a narrow backyard, and therefore would like to add more backyard space on the property we have owned for 19 years. Without the proposed fence, our side yard is a sizeable property that we own, but is unusable.

We received City Approval (File# 2004-0322) for building the fence on April 16, 2004. As a 'good neighbor' courtesy, on April 19<sup>th</sup>, I informed Mr. Bagwe about our plans. In addition, we asked if he would be interested in a new fence between his property and ours. He voiced no objections at that time, other than removing a large bottlebrush tree on our property, which we had not initially planned to remove. We accommodated his request.

Based on his letter, Mr. Bagwe's solitary concern with the proposed fence is the 'appearance of the neighborhood'. The three points mentioned in his letter can be addressed as follows:

- 1) We will grow flowers and ensure that the fence does not look unattractive and 'walled in'. On April 19th, Mr. Bagwe was happy to hear that we were going to clear up the trees and hedges in order to place our fence, as he disapproved of the earlier foliage as well. We have incurred the expense to clear up the area and remove the tree stumps before we were informed on May 3rd, about Mr. Bagwe's filing.
- 2) The one-foot wide "dead zone" currently is a cemented partition between the two properties. It is at the ground level and is not visible to the other neighbors driving by. Mr. Bagwe can place tall potted plants over the cement strip, if he so desires.

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3) Mr. Bagwe has rallied with a neighbor and expressed his objections to the fence. We spoke to the neighbor, who was satisfied with the proposed resolution to pretty up the fence with colorful flowers, so that the neighborhood view would be enhanced. He informed us that he and Mr. Bagwe would visit us on Wednesday, April 21st. We adjusted our schedules to accommodate their visit, but they did not show up.

We have been very accommodative in our approach. Everyone wants privacy in their backyard, and so do we. A four-foot fence would not give us any privacy at all. Hence, we request that we be allowed to build the proposed six-foot fence, which adheres to the city guidelines, and will increase the size of our backyard.

We take pride in being Sunnyvale residents, and are conscientious about the neighborhood's appearance. We have received a number of compliments on our house's curb appeal and we intend to maintain the high standard of presentation. We take it upon ourselves to be responsible for the beautification of our home and yard.

We trust the Planning Commission will take into account, our modest request of enjoying our own property.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sangeeta Gupte
Owner: 702 Chopin Dr.

Bharat Gupte
Owner: 702 Chopin Dr.